The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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AGITATE!
EDUCATE!
ORGANIZE!

VOL. 11. NO. 10. WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, MAY 28, 1921. WHOLE NO. 530.

PRINTING TRADE UNIONS FIGHTING FOR HONESTY BETWEEN MEN : :

The printing trade unions are winning their nation-wide fight to nforce a 44-hour agreement.

This strike is for more than a reduction of four hours a week—it volves a broken pledge by employers who are being supported by ery anti-union influence in the country.

The agreement was made two years ago. Now, it is repudiated nd this treachery is condoned by other business men and their allies, ho ignore the first test of manhood.

The original question—a reduction of four hours a week—is suberged by this violation of pledged word.

The printing trade employers are not alone in their sinister policy. very other employer who aids them is equally guilty of violating the rst law between men and the first essential to industrial understanding.

The unions are not only fighting to reinstate the agreement, but ey are fighting to save the employers from themselves.

What of the future if it were possible for the allied forces of ti-unionism to repudiate an agreement like the present one?

These employers are sowing to reap a whirlwind.

Do they imagine that millions of organized wage earners will verlook this incident? Or that these workers will hereafter rely on edged word rather than on their own power?

Will the experience of the printing trade unions be a warning to her organizations of wage earners that the word of business men is orthless?

Do those editors who, by their silence, approve repudiation agine that they will hereafter have any influence with the wage rners?

If the printing trade unions—or any other trade union—acted as ese employers and their allies do, it would be treated as a national andal by our "molders of public opinion."

The men who now make a pledged word the football of expeency would rock the country with their denunciation of this agreeent violation by the unions.

And they would be justified in this denunciation, as are the printg trade unions justified in insisting that if orderly procedure, and t chaos, is to prevail, a pledged word between men must be conered inviolate.

In discussing contract breaking between business men, the Annalist, presentative New York financial paper, said (issue August 23, 1920): t is a fact that contracts with firms of the first order are now asked be considered as scraps of paper."

If business men would break contracts between themselves, that their affair.

But organized labor insists that the nation's industrial policy must t be based on trickery and deceit.

Italian War Profits Are Being Confiscated

New York, May 28. — The New rk World prints this editorial, hich will send cold chills down e spine of American profiteers, ho are worried lest labor unions cure the right to bargain collectely, and whether courts may conue the use of the illegal labor junction:

"Italian lire are worth today arly double what they were orth four months ago, having sen more rapidly than the money any other nation in Europe. The ason for this phenomenal stride the direction of a return to prosrity in a country that is among e poorest, which has few natural sources, few articles to export, is be found in the courage with hich its statesmen have faced the nancial situation. In the interew which Premier Giolitti gave the Associated Press he pointed t that if the present taxes were stributed throughout the entire pulation every man, woman and ild in Italy would be paying $30 year to the government.

"There is, however, another tax to hich Giolitti made no reference, cause it is as yet uncollected, and e that illustrates better than any her the daring of the government. nited States Commercial Attache C. MacLean writes from Rome the department of commerce in Washington that the decree confiscating all war profits went into effect on April 2.

"No other nation has ventured to confiscate all war profits. But Premier Giolitti, faced with the problem of an enormous deficit, announced that those who had profited by the war must pay for the war. The new law provides that before assessing the war profits the following deductions are to be made: Ordinary income, based on the average for 1913 and 1914, but in no case less than 8 per cent of the capital invested; all taxes and super-taxes paid on profits and all other payments to state, provincial and municipal authorities; expenses incurred in incorporating; income tax paid on interest due to stock and bondholders and on salaries of employes; amounts due on social insurance set aside for welfare work among employes or paid out of net income for charitable work, besides a general exemption of 20,000 lire. A single return is to be made for the period August 1, 1914, to June 30, 1920, and payment is to be made in bi-monthly instalments.

"What sum will be realized from this extraordinary tax it is, of course, impossible to guess, but legislation of this type explains much of Giolitti's popularity, as well as the rapid rise in the value of Italian money."

INJUNCTION IN NEW FORM.

New York, May 28.—"An injuncon of a new-fangled kind" is what fficers of the International Ladies' arment Workers' union call an innction move against this union by ohen, Friedlander & Martin, cloak anufacturers of Toledo, Ohio.

This firm has a strike on. It mes to New York and tells Jusce McAvoy that it has given up s shop in Toledo and wants to beme a jobber in New York, but the nion has hindered it by insisting at it settle its Toledo strike.

So the firm concludes that the nion is intent on overthrowing the overnment and wants an injuncon against this "conspirative oranization."

The firm has engaged that stirlg patriot and "100 per cent American," Walter Gordon Merritt, ell-known legal defender of the nti-union shop.

Morris Hilquit, attorney for the nionists, says:

"The complainant appears to disgard entirely the methods of production in the cloak industry and ould have us forget that the jober plays a very important role in e industry, and just as it is imortant for the workers that the arments made by manufacturers, ub-manufacturers or contractors e union-made, so is it important all workers that the garments rdered by a jobber be union garents."

MORE MOONEY AFFIDAVITS.

San Francisco, May 28.—Another rame-up affidavit has been filed in e Mooney case.

William Pyne, who was a watchan at the Eilers building during e preparedness parade, now wears that the Mooneys were on e top of that building when the omb exploded a mile and a quarter way. Mrs. Mooney has a music tudio in the Eilers building and e Mooneys have insisted that they ere on this building at a time hen it was impossible to be at the cene of the explosion, as claimed y the prosecution.

Several other affidavits have been ecured in support of the watchan's affidavit and the Mooney alibi laim.

QUERY FOR FLAG FLAPPERS.

Lynn, Mass., May 28.—In an adress to business men John P. Frey, ditor of the International Molders' ournal, submitted this query to flag lappers and "100 per cent Americans:"

"What kind of an American is to e made out of the alien who comes ere trying to understand our demcracy and finds it all right for one roup to organize to prevent another group from the same right of rganization?"

JUSTICE ASHLEY PASSES ON.

Washington, May 28.—Ashley M. Gould, associate justice of the District of Columbia supreme court, died in this city last week.

In 1907 the deceased issued the Bucks stove company injunction against President Gompers, associate members of the A. F. of L. executive council and "all others." The court's order enjoined even reference to the company's name in the American Federationist or any other printed matter. President Gompers announced his refusal to disobey the injunction, as it prohibited discussion of the merits of the court's order, and therefore violated free speech and free press guarantees.

On the charge of violating the injunction Justice Daniel Thew Wright of the same court sentenced President Gompers to one year in jail, Vice President Mitchell to nine months in jail and Secretary Frank Morrison to six months in jail. The sentence was carried to the United States supreme court, where it was finally dismissed under the statute of limitation.

Justice Wright died in this city several years ago.

FAVOR MATERNITY BILL.

Washington, May 28.—The senate and house of representatives have received a memorial from the Montana legislature urging the passage of the Smith-Towner bill, which would inaugurate a campaign for the education, protection and relief of expectant mothers. The western lawmakers say that 150 mothers die each year in Montana from ignorance of natal hygiene or from inability to secure proper care and attention and that this number constitutes 2½ per cent of the total deaths in Montana, or one out of each 40 from all causes.

"We believe that child bearing should not continue to be a journey into the valley of the shadow of death," the memorialists declare.

FIGHT INSURANCE BILL.

Washington, May 28.—Every influence that private insurance companies can command is drawn into a fight against the Fitzgerald-Jones bill, which provides for compulsory workmen's compensation insurance. While this bill would only apply to the District of Columbia, its moral effect would be widespread and would be a serious blow to the business of profiteering in the injuries and deaths of workers throughout the country.

MAKES CLEAN SWEEP.

Hartford, Conn., May 28.—The labor committee of the general assembly has made a clean sweep—not one bill urged by organized labor has been considered favorably.

Anti-Unionists Are Compelled To Change Tactics

BY PRESIDENT GOMPERS.

Confession that the "open shop" campaign has proved a failure was made public May 16 at the annual convention of the national association of manufacturers, held in New York.

The committee on industrial betterment of that organization protested against the defensive position into which the members had been forced by labor, and plaintively declared:

"A defensive battle is a losing battle."

The committee urged that an offensive campaign be inaugurated and that the "open shop" movement be stimulated by plans for industrial representation which would bring about the following result:

"If plans for its adoption are wisely introduced industrial representation should become the most approved method of dealing with labor. Such plans could be inaugurated where members of labor organizations as well as independent workers are employed."

Having failed by coercive tactics to force autocracy in industry upon the workers, the national association of manufacturers now propose to silence them by promising a few of their representatives seats on boards of directors of the corporations. This would be empty honor, indeed. The hopes and aspirations of labor cannot be satisfied by the patronizing act of patting the workers on the back. Sincerity of purpose of employers, their wholehearted interest in their employes, can be best shown in the contents of pay envelopes. When that is lacking there can be no encouragement for the workers in having representatives on boards of directors.

Furthermore, such a proposal is to encourage the disorganization of the organized and prevent organization of the yet unorganized.

The humiliating confession of defeat of the "open shop" campaign officially corroborates the statements heretofore made by labor that as the "open shop" campaign was an un-American and illogical campaign conducted to serve greed and special interests it was impossible for it to succeed. This position has been maintained by labor since the profiteering interests first launched their agitation to enslave labor. The hue and cry for the "open shop" also was intended as propaganda to influence legislation in the states similar to that adopted in Kansas to tie men to their jobs. But the propaganda proved unavailing. Not a single state followed the lead of disgraced Kansas. No more abject admission of defeat for an unworthy cause could be made than that contained in the report of the committee on industrial betterment to the national association of manufacturers. It is a cry for help. But the answer will be the same as that which has been made by the people to the unfair employers since the campaign began.

The failure of the campaign to destroy trade unions proves two things, which are:

First, that the working people want trade union organization and will not be driven from its protection, and

Second, that trade unionism is fundamentally right, that it is a vital part of American democracy in action and that the logic and strength of its position are proof against successful attack.

The opportunity seems fitting to say to the workers of America and to the employers that the American Federation of Labor is about to begin a great organizing campaign. Organization work continues at all times, but this work is to be intensified. The message of trade unionism will be carried to every corner of the land, to the limit of our power. Its encouragement and protection will be offered to the workers everywhere.

Immediately following the Denver convention it is my purpose to visit a number of cities to encourage the unorganized to join our movement.

American labor wants the value of organization to be at the service of the country, for the sake of the protection of the workers and for the sake of the value of organization in the stimulation, encouragement and facilitation of production.

The confession of the national association of manufacturers should be good news to all thinking persons. Of no less value will be the redoubled efforts to broaden and strengthen the great democratic, constructive, liberty-loving organizations of American working people.

CHINESE FOR HAWAII WANTED BY PLANTERS

Washington, May 28. — Recent statements in the public press that there is a labor shortage in the Hawaiian islands is propaganda for sugar planters, who want congress to permit them to import coolie labor.

According to information received at A. F. of L. headquarters from Honolulu, trade unionists there are protesting against the creation of an emergency labor commission, in defiance of law, to come to Washington for the purpose of urging the admission of Chinese.

Under the organic act, which created the territory of Hawaii, a federal labor commission must be created periodically to conduct an industrial survey of these islands. This commission should be created this year, but this has been disregarded by the governer, senate and house, all combined to carry out the sugar planters' scheme. A bill creating an emergency labor commission to present the matter to the president and congress was rushed through the legislature.

A labor representative was unable to gain recognition from the chair while the bill was being considered by the house.

"With characteristic plantation tactics," the unionists say, "when the matter came up for debate, the previous question was moved at once, thus preventing any expression of opinion. The whole proceeding appeared to be a sharp piece of parliamentary trickery designed to slip the measure through without a roll call and without permitting the central labor union's argument to be offered to the house."

Joined with the sugar planters are other corporations who cry "labor shortage" as a camouflage to import coolies. The Oahu Railway company claims its work is hampered by a labor shortage. Trade unionists reply that all the men required for any kind of railroad work can be quickly found if the company will pay standard wages.

MORE UNEMPLOYED.

Washington, May 28.—As the result of reports from representative establishments in 13 manufacturing industries and in bituminous mining, the United States bureau of labor statistics says:

"Comparing the figures of April, 1921, with those for identical establishments for April, 1920, it appears that in all industries there were decreases in the number of persons employed. The largest decreases, 41.9 per cent and 40.9 per cent, are shown in automobile and leather. Iron and steel show a decrease of 36.2 per cent, and hosiery and underwear a decrease of 32.2 per cent. The smallest decrease, 4 per cent, appears in cotton manufacturing.

"All of the 14 industries show decreases in the total amount of the pay roll for April, 1921, as compared with April, 1920. The most important percentage decrease, 53.8, is shown in iron and steel. Respective decreases of 48.1 per cent, 46.1 per cent and 45 per cent appear in the leather, hosiery and underwear, and automobile industries."

MUCH NATURAL GAS LOST.

Columbus, Ohio, May 28.—One-third of the entire production of natural gas is lost because of bad pipe lines from the point of production to the point of distribution, said S. S. Wyer, formerly connected with the federal bureau of mines, in an address to the convention of the natural gas association of America.

The speaker scored this lack of efficiency, which results in a loss of natural wealth that cannot be replaced.

"If any other business or industry in the country was as lax in this respect," he said, "and allowed so much waste of its chief commodity, all of them would be in the bankruptcy courts within a very few weeks."

Mr. Wyer declared that the only thing that saved the gas companies was the fact that they had what they had believed for years to be an unlimited supply, but in the future they must pay more attention to conservation.

CHURCH MEN STAND FIRM.

Winona Lake, Ind., May 28.—At a meeting of 1,000 commissioners of the Presbyterian general assembly an almost unanimous vote of approval was given the federal church council in its work along economic lines. The council has been subject to bitter criticism by large employing interests because it declared that the so-called "open" shop campaign was a disguised attempt to wreck trade unions.

WILL LAND ON ROOF.

Chicago, May 28.—Air planes carrying mail will land on the roof of the new post office to be erected here, officials announce.

BAKERS MAKE GAINS.

Cincinnati, May 28. — Bakers' union No. 213 has signed an agreemen with every bakery shop in this city, with three exceptions.

Garment Industry Quietly Revolutionized When Employers Acted With Union

New York, May 28.—The possibilities of trade unionism are recalled by the observance of the tenth anniversary of the joint board of sanitary control in the ladies' garment industry in this city.

The board was organized in 1910, under the chairmanship of Louis D. Brandeis, now associate justice of the supreme court of the United States, and was the result of the great strike of that year, waged by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' union.

The board consists of representatives of employers and employed. When this board started its work manufacturing was largely done in small, overcrowded, ill-lighted, badly ventilated, unsafe and unsanitary workshops, located mainly in the tenement district of the east side. Fire dangers in the district were extreme. There were either no fire escapes or inadequate ones, wooden stairways, storage of inflammable materials and improper exists. The rudiments of sanitation and proper health conditions were practically unknown to either worker or employer. It seemed such a helpless muddle that it required gigantic energy and inspiration to attempt to change it into an industry housed on a modern basis.

The feat, however, was accomplished. Today, for the most part, the shops have been moved into less crowded neighborhoods and quarters. All the shops are lighted by electricity and gas or coal ironing has been supplanted by the use of the electric press. Toilet accommodations are of improved pattern and most of the shops have rest and dressing rooms. Safety and fire protection is one of the most important changes.

The board has also carried on an educational campaign among the workers, teaching them easy methods of sanitation, its beneficial effect upon their health and their responsibility in keeping the conditions in their industry to a high plane.

At present the only feature of the activities of the joint board carried on jointly by the employers and the unions is safety, fire and sanitation protection. The other activities of the joint board—its medical and dental clinics, its educational work and the medical examination department—are supported exclusively by these unions. The most recent undertaking of the joint board is the establishment of the union health center. Money for the building and equipment, $90,000, was provided by six locals of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' union. The total membership of these locals is between 35,000 and 40,000, but the services are open to all the 85,000 members of the international in New York city.

These unionists declare this is the first industrial, co-operative, self-supporting health center in the country, and that "the 10 years of achievement of the joint board of sanitary control is one of the bright spots in the history of New York industry."

Aside from these activities these unionists are conducting an educational movement for their members that ranges from teaching the English language to the sciences and classics, while maintaining a militant policy in the matter of raising living standards and shortening the work week.

NAMES ARE NOTHING.

Manchester, England, May 28.—The Manchester Guardian, one of Great Britain's sanest newspapers, makes this editorial comment on the supposed death of the triple alliance:

"The refusal of the railway men and transport workers to come out with the miners, as they had promised, was naturally supposed to have killed the triple alliance. Perhaps it has, in name at all events. But the name matters little. What matters is that if any one of these three groups is on strike the other two are almost automatically affected. That is why, in spite of their so-called desertion, the railway men found that they could not, in fact, preserve neutrality—as trade unionism defines neutrality in industrial disputes.

"Rather than be accused of 'scabbing,' the railway men decided not to handle industrial coal. The transport workers have now decided to adopt a similar policy and to refuse to load or unload ships bunkered with foreign coal.

"It is, therefore, by no means certain, even yet, that the dispute may not be extended to the railway men and transport workers."

MILLIONS GO TO EUROPE.

Boston, May 28.—In urging state-controlled compensation insurance, State Senator Tarbell showed that millions of dollars are annually sent abroad as profits of foreign-controlled and foreign-owned insurance companies, collected in premiums for compensation in the various states.

"What guarantee have we given to our workers or our employers that these companies will continue to remain solvent?" asked the law maker.

"This is not the dream of some theorist. Government statistics show that several casualty companies have become insolvent and the workers who were insured, when they went to collect their benefits, found to their sorrow that something had happened to the company. Is this fair? Can any member of this body point out where a state fund has become insolvent?

"We license these companies to collect money from our employers but in return do we give our employers any guarantee that while these companies are solvent today they may not prove to be solvent tomorrow?

$8.68 A SHARE.

New York, May 28.—Profits of $8.68 a share for its common stockholders for the year ended March 31, last, is announced by the Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing company. These profits total $12,297,640, after all charges and preferred dividends on bonds were met, and after $5,315,196 were set aside for depreciation and an additional $5,000,000 set aside to cover unforeseen shrinkages in the value of the property.

Despite these vast sums, which were tucked away in special funds, there still remained a clear profit of more than $12,000,000.

REJECT WAGE CUT.

New York, May 28.—But 14 of the 400 members of Teamsters' union No. 202 favored a wage cut of $2 a week. The union will arbitrate the proposal if the anti-union shop plan is not included.

STUPENDOUS WASTE.

Chicago, May 28. — Stupendous waste in industry can be wiped out by applying the principles of the engineer, said one speaker, at a meeting of members of the American society of mechanical engineers in this city.

It was stated that in the manufacture and sale of ladies' hats, shoes and millinery there is a great waste through changing styles.

"The designer, the manufacturer, and the dealer will tell you the women demand frequent changes," said the speaker. "The woman will insist that she would be content to wear last year's dress, if it were not out of style.

"A prominent locomotive builder was able to build 163 standard designed locomotives in five weeks, while he was able to produce only 104 locomotives of industrial design in the same period.

"Twenty-five per cent reduction in production occurred in every men's ready-made clothing plant investigated that adopted a slight style change in the cut of the lapel of the coat."

OPPOSE SALES TAX.

Washington, May 28.—"One of the most iniquitous impost measures ever devised," was the reference made to the proposed sales tax by Walter W. Liggett of Chicago, testifying before the senate committee.

"It harks back to the days of Rome when the tax gathering privilege was sold by the government," said the witness. "We believe it will raise between $1,000,000,000 and $3,000,000,000 of revenue, but will cost the consumer $5,000,000,000 to $8,000,000,000, adding from 15 to 20 per cent to the cost of goods to the consumers. Instead of aiding business, no better way could be devised to injure it, because it will tend to decrease buying."

The sales tax was urged by Meyer D. Rothschild of New York, who said the jewelry interests of the country favor it. This witness is one of the persons mentioned in a resolution introduced in the house for an inquiry into methods pursued by sales tax propagandists.

DODGE UNPOPULAR FACTS.

London, England, May 28.—"Unemployment is an economic disease and the economist has primarily more concern with its treatment than has the politician," writes W. A. Appleton, secretary of the General Federation of Trade Unions, in his quarterly report.

"The economist deals with facts, and these are only popular when they are pleasant. This may account for the very general disinclination to study unemployment from the practical and the non-partisan point of view," he says.

STATE UNIONS TO MEET.

Brainerd, Minn., May 28.—The annual convention of the Minnesota state federation of labor will be held in this city, beginning July 17.

Vancouver, Wash., May 28.—The annual convention of the Washington state federation of labor will be held here beginning Monday, July 11.

ACTIVELY ORGANIZING

Hibbing, Minn., May 28.—Practically every trade union in this city is increasing its membership.

DANGEROUS RULING IN PRESSMEN'S SUIT

Washington, May 28.—Further interference by the courts in the affairs of trade unions is shown in the decision by Federal Judge Cochran, eastern district of Kentucky, against the International Printing Pressmen and Assistants' union.

A local union charged officers of the international with diverting moneys of that organization from one fund to another. The officials showed that during the period of the war the board of directors authorized the funds of one department to meet the financial responsibilities of another department.

The international's convention, held in October, last year, unanimously approved the board's action in every manner whatsoever in the conduct of the affairs of the union.

Judge Cochran, however, rules that the convention of the international is without authority to conduct its own affairs.

It is declared that on appeal, Judge Cochran's decision will be unquestionably repealed, as it is without precedent and is extralegal. It illustrates how far some judges will go in encroaching upon the rights of voluntary organizations, particularly trade unions.

The case has been pending for nearly a year and a half. Judge Cochran made his decision three days before the nation-wide strike of international printing trade unions to enforce a 44-hour contract between employers and employed, which has been repudiated by the former.

SAYS RICH DODGE LAW.

New York, May 28.—Samuel Untermyer, counsel for the state commission that is investigating the building trust, has notified Attorney General Newton he wants to resign and that he will not attempt to secure any more indictments under the existing anti-trust laws.

Mr. Untermyer's letter is a remarkable arraignment of conditions relating to the enforcement of federal and state anti-trust laws, which, he declares, have been so administered within the past few years as "to breed contempt for the law and support a powerful argument in the hands of demagogues and enemies of organized society in favor of the claim that our criminal laws are not enforced against the rich and powerful in the same spirit as against the poor and lowly."

To date the net result of the commission's investigation has been the jailing of one member of organized labor and the fining of several business men and corporations. The evidence showed that business men financed this, convicted worker in organizing a dual union of painters to resist the wage demand of the regular painters' union.

In his letter to the attorney general, Mr. Untermyer declines to be a "collection agency" for gathering fines. Unless legislation can be secured which will insure imprisonment of these offenders, he says, he can see no substantial usefulness in further convictions.

When the worker was sentenced to the penitentiary the public press shrieked its praise. Since then other subjects are being discussed.

WOULD "READJUST" RATES.

Washington, May 28.—Albert H. Smith, president of the New York Central railroad, told the senate interstate commerce committee that he favored a "scientific" readjustment of railroad rates. This is the first railroad official who has intimated that railroad rates are too high, although they are a unit in condemning "high" wages. All other railroad officials have declared that rates are not high.

Mr. Smith let it be understood that rate reductions must not be arbitrary, but must only be made after experiments on what charges will increase traffic.

In the case of wages, however, a sledge hammer is permissible to accomplish their reduction.

MINERS ACT TOGETHER.

New York, May 28.—At a conference in this city anthracite and bituminous coal miners agreed to take joint action in negotiating wage agreements. Heretofore the anthracite miners, located in a small section of eastern Pennsylvania, have negotiated their agreement independent of the soft coal miners, who are scattered throughout the country. The anthracite men will postpone their wage convention until after the convention of the United Mine Workers, which will be held in Indianapolis, September 20. At that time details of the co-operative move will be worked out.

REFUSE TO ARBITRATE.

Toledo, Ohio, May 28.—Sheet metal contractors are attempting to enforce a wage reduction and have refused to consider the offer of employes that the question be arbitrated.

PLUMBERS RAISE WAGES.

Uniontown, Pa., May 28.—Plumbers have won their demand for wage increases after a three-weeks' strike.

LABOR DEPARTMENT IN DANGER; QUICK PROTESTS NECESSARY

Washington, May 28.—The United States department of labor was created as a result of trade union agitation, and the same method must be applied to save it from being weakened or destroyed.

The law creating the department provides that its purpose shall be "to foster, promote and develop the welfare of the wage earners of the United States, to improve their working conditions and to advance their opportunities for profitable employment."

Three bills are now pending in congress that would create a department of public welfare and give this new department many functions and powers now exercised by the department of labor.

In the bill introduced by Senator Kenyon the president is authorized to transfer to the new department any other function of the department of labor that he believes comes under the head of health or social welfare.

Do you want the department of labor weakened or destroyed?

If not, write your senators and congressman, letting them know your position.

LOW WAGE PROPAGANDA IS BASED ON FICTION

Washington, May 28.—The low wage propaganda of railroad managers and their supporters who talk of prewar rates is at variance with a report made in April, 1918, by a railroad wage commission, appointed by Director General of Railroads McAdoo.

This commission was composed of the late Franklin K. Lane, then secretary of the interior; Charles C. McChord, member of the interstate commerce commission; J. Harry Covington, judge of the District of Columbia court, and William R. Willcox, former postmaster of New York city.

In its report this commission said:

"It has been a somewhat popular impression that railroad employes were among the most highly paid workers. But figures gathered from the railroads disposed of this belief. Fifty-one per cent of all employes during December, 1917, received $75 per month or less. And 80 per cent received $100 per month or less. Even among the locomotive engineers, commonly spoken of as highly paid, a preponderating number receives less than $170 per month, and this compensation they have attained by the most compact and complete organization, handled with a full appreciation of all strategical values. Between the grades receiving from $150 to $250 per month, there is included less than 3 per cent of all the employes (excluding officials), and these aggregate less than 60,000 men out of a grand total of 2,000,000.

"These, it is to be noted, are not prewar figures; they represent conditions after a year of war, and two years of rising prices. And each dollar now represents in its power to purchase a place in which to live, food to eat, and clothing to wear, but 71 cents as against the 100 cents of January 1, 1916."

CO-OPS. HAVE NO PROFITS.

London, England, May 28.—In opposing the attempt to enforce the corporation profits tax on co-operative societies, Sir John Simon says:

"The scheme of a co-operative society is in its essence this, that a number of persons, who are called the members, join together to make purchases of goods and to distribute these goods among themselves; the actual purchase and distribution being of necessity carried out by some managing body acting on behalf of all the members. It is clear, therefore, that an excess of the so-called 'price' at which the goods are distributed over the price at which they were bought is not 'profit' in an ordinary sense of that word; indeed, the main object of the society is to prevent any 'profit' from arising at all.

"None of this money can possibly be called a 'profit' either of the society or of its individual members. The position is just the same as it would be if a man gave £1,000 to his agent to buy a motor car, and the agent reported that he had secured a car for £800, and returned to his employer the £200 less his commission and expenses, and any other sum which his employer had instructed him to pay. It would not occur to anybody to say that what the employer received back was a 'profit' on the transaction."

RAIL WORKERS TO CONFER.

Cleveland, May 28. — A call has been issued by the executives of the five transportation railroad organizations for a meeting of 600 general chairmen to attend a joint conference at Chicago on Friday, July 1, to consider the wage award made by the United States railroad labor board, effective on that date.

The interested unions are the locomotive engineers, firemen, conductors, trainmen and switchmen.

"For the information of all concerned," it is stated, "this meeting has been called as a result of a resolution adopted by the United States railroad labor board, as reported in the public press."

The board's announcement said the amount of the wage decrease, effective July 1, will be made public June 1.

ADVISES COAL OWNERS.

New York, May 28.—In an address to the National Coal association, former Governor Cornwell of West Virginia urged these business men to compel the "outlaw operators who gouge the public, to play the game on the square."

The speaker declared that if the railroads had been square and reasonable in their early history they would not have been "regulated to death," and coal owners should have this in mind if they would avoid government regulation.

The speaker was until recently governor of West Virginia. His conduct during that time was most satisfactory to coal owners in their war against the United Mine Workers.

ALIEN BILL IS SIGNED.

Washington, May 28.—President Harding has signed the immigration bill which restricts immigration to 3 per cent of the nationals of any country already in the United States, based on the census of 1910. The law is effective until June 30, 1922.

The same bill was passed at the last session of congress, but was vetoed by President Wilson.

The departments of state, labor and commerce have assigned representatives to work out the percentage of immigrants.

MINERS' POOLING PLAN URGED BY STRONG MEN

Indianapolis, May 28.—The national wage pool plan, favored by British coal miners, is indorsed by far-sighted coal owners and statesmen, according to Henry Evans, writing to the United Mine Workers' Journal from Earsdon, England. The pool plan means a small tax on every ton of coal to be used to equalize wages.

The writer calls attention to a report by the recent Sankey commission, appointed by the government, which shows that the cost of mining coal in 450 pits varied from $3.12 to $12 a ton.

"So the standardization of wages," says Mr. Lewis, "involves the creation of some arrangement by which the industry can be treated for certain purposes as a unity. This policy has been turned down by the employers, and it has been rejected by the government, but in spite of that, the evidence in favor of it is, I venture to say, overwhelming. In 1894, after the settlement of the great strike, Sir George Elliott, the great South Wales coal owner, urged the pooling idea. Again, Sir Richard Redmayne, the late chief mine inspector of the British mines, and Sir Arthur Lowes Dickenson, men who sat on the Sankey commission, whose characters are unimpeachable, impressed it upon the commission, mainly in the interests of the coal consumer. The coal controllers' department was so impressed with the financial wastefulness of the present system that it actually prepared and printed a scheme of unification (or pooling). Three other business men who were opposed to nationalization were Sir Arthur Duckham, Mr. Balfour and Sir Thomas Rayden. All these men recommended that some measures of unification be brought into the coal interests for the benefit of the government and the consumers. Yet, mark you, the last five persons named above were the gentlemen selected by the government and mine owners to represent them on the Sankey coal commission. Plainly, their advice has been ignored by the employers and by the government.

"In fact, the whole of Judge Sankey's findings have been turned down and that is why we are at a standstill today in the British coal mines, and unless there is a great change in the employers' views I fear it will be a long and bitter struggle."

EFFICIENCY LACKING.

Washington, May 28.—Nearly 50,000 government employes receive less than a living wage; there are as many as 10 or 12 different rates of pay for the same kind of work; highly trained workers of many callings are paid less than common laborers.

The above are a few of the charges made against the present employment policy of the government by Luther C. Steward, president of the National Association of Federal Employes at a civil service hearing before a joint committee of the senate and house.

The trade unionist presented a constructive policy which would establish uniformity, a board of appeals, and provision for promotion.

"There is a 40 per cent labor turnover in the government," he said. "This costs the government millions of dollars. There is little future for employes appointed on merit, because most of the best positions are filled by political appointees. Hundreds of positions are vacant because the salaries are too low to tempt qualified applicants."

AMEND COMPENSATION LAW.

Rutland, Vt., May 28.—The Vermont legislature has amended the state compensation law so that an injured person will receive $15 maximum and $6 minimum weekly instead of $12.50 and $3 as previously paid.

The legislature also passed the widows' pension bill which provides an allotment of $2 weekly for each child until 16 years of age.

A 48-hour week for female workers was defeated. Manufacturers and business men claimed that their women employes are losing sleep because of fear that their hours of labor would be reduced.

SOUND BUT NOT USED.

Atlantic City, N. J., May 28.—In a speech before a convention of business men in this city, one of the speakers said: "The idea of competition for keeping prices free from artificial control by manufacturers or dealers is undoubtedly sound."

These business men, who are linked up in 100 per cent organizations to uphold prices, applauded the speaker.

TEACHERS WIN SUIT.

Pottsville, Pa., May 28.—Judge Bechtel has ruled that the Norwegian township school board must pay the salaries in full of seven teachers and janitors who were dismissed without cause last January, although they had a contract for a full term.

WIN UNION SHOP FIGHT.

Asheville, N. C., May 28.—The builders' exchange has signed a union shop contract with building craftsmen, and a year's fight to establish the anti-union shop in this city has failed.